

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, In the United States, one person completes suicide every 15.2 minutes; and,

*Whereas*, It is estimated that 4.6 million people in the United States are survivors of suicide (those who have lost a loved one to suicide); and,

*Whereas*, Suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 to 24; and,

*Whereas*, In 2010, the HELP!Line Center in South Dakota received over 900 suicide-related calls through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255); and,

*Whereas*, Communities in South Dakota can work to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality, and encourage people at risk to seek life-saving help; and,

*Whereas*, A great many suicides are preventable, and South Dakotans are encouraged to call the Lifeline if they or someone they know is considering suicide:

*Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 4 – 10, 2011, as

## *SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK*

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

*Dennis Daugaard*  
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

*Jason M. Gant*  
Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State